

Final Meeting Minutes
Command Council Meeting
Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area, Davis
October 18, 2006

1. Attendees

Steve Hampton	Calif. Dept. of Fish and Game (CDFG) - Primary Representative
Kathy Verrue-Slater	Calif. Dept. of Fish and Game (CDFG) - Legal
Dan Welsh	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)- Primary Representative
Janet Whitlock	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)- Alternate Representative
Jennifer Boyce	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) – Primary Representative
Joanne Kerbavaz	California Department of Parks and Recreation (Parks) – Alternate Representative
Jennifer Lucchesi	California State Lands Commission – Alternate Representative

Guests

Karen Reyna	Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary
Kelley Higgason	Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary
Hannah Nevins	Oikonos

2. Project Updates.

Seabird Colony Protection Project: Karen Reyna and Kelley Higgason provided an update of all project activities and presented many materials. The project is moving forward with many education and outreach initiatives, such as brochures, articles, presentations at conferences and meetings, letters to pilot organizations, a booth at a fishing show, etc. The final Action Plan has been completed, the website is up, and the Technical Advisory Committee has met. Additionally, the TC has since signed Resolution 06-1 in support of the overall project plan and budget. So far, all has gone well. Without changes in the regulations, only advisory buoys with minimal enforcement capability may be installed. They are looking into changes in the regs. The FAA charts do not show the 1,000 foot flight limit along parts of the NMS coast; they are looking into getting that changed. In the meantime, they are producing a map illustrating the 1,000 foot limit for pilots that will fit into a flight book. While they still have substantial carry-over due to delays, they have requested **\$137,000** for upcoming activities, in accordance with the planned budget. The TC approved this.

On the monitoring front, Gerry McChesney has prepared a report (combined with Apex Houston TC monitoring). For this past summer, and again in 2007, Apex Houston TC will fund monitoring and surveillance at Devil's Slide, while Command will cover Castle/Hurricane and Pt. Reyes. Gerry requested \$99,499 for next year's monitoring. Minus \$5,981 carry-over from this year, the TC approved **\$93,518**. This will fund an additional surveyor at Pt. Reyes to improve coverage of the Drake's Bay colonies, where disturbance is suspected but coverage is minimal due to the long hike to get out there. Cost savings to offset this added expense were achieved by shortening the duration of the seasonal hires.

Common Murre Nesting Ledge Project on the Farallons: This project is underway and should be completed this fall. There was a slight cost increase due to the need for a motorized wheel-barrow and higher management costs. This resulted in a cost overrun of \$5,883. Combined with next year's monitoring budget, the total amount requested for 2007 is **\$14,097**. The TC approved this.

Sooty Shearwater Restoration Project: Hannah Nevins provided an update and presented the annual report. The rat eradication was carried out this summer and all went smoothly. The implementers will monitor for two years before declaring the islands “rat free”. Presently, there are no signs of rats. Fewer weka were killed by the poison, and thus will need to be removed using other means over the coming year. Hannah presented draft film footage for the educational video. Last month, Dan Welsh and Steve Hampton were interviewed and filmed for the video.

The TC also discussed a need to agree on an overall project budget, rather than annual allocations. Dan provided copies of the final and recently amended Cooperative Agreement between USFWS and Oikonos. As Hannah is awaiting some large invoices associated with the eradication effort, the TC will wait and evaluate the overall budget situation at a later date. In the meantime, the TC approved an additional **\$21,413** for weka removal in 2007.

Corvid Management Project: Portia Halbert of State Parks continues to oversee the project. Education and outreach continue to move forward in full swing at State Parks campgrounds and “the message” has been incorporated into many facets of camper education. New outreach tools include stickers, magnets, and a camper survey. The short educational video has been completed and will soon be shown in the Visitor Center. It is generic enough that it may be shown at Redwood State and National Park as well (and they collaborated in developing it). The new garbage bins have arrived and are now in place at Big Basin. A contract between State Parks and San Mateo County Parks is now in place and the project is beginning to move forward at Memorial County Park. They are re-vamping their garbage collection system and installing bins similar to State Parks. They are pouring the concrete pads now. Portia has been working with their new manager and interpreter, who are both very supportive of the project. Portia is sharing all the materials developed at State Parks. Due to the delay in implementing work at Memorial County Park, State Parks only requests **\$13,000** for the coming year. The TC approved this.

Fewer ravens were removed from Big Basin this year, apparently because there were fewer ravens. David Suddjian continues to do the monitoring for both MAMU and corvids, but his 2006 reports have not been received yet.

Girl Scout Creek Acquisition & Enhancement Project: State Parks is beginning to work on the management plan. Rugged terrain has made access to the property and reconnaissance difficult. Three years of audio/visual MAMU surveys will start in summer 2007.

Brown Pelican Roost Sites

Brown Pelican Entanglement Education

Half Moon Bay Stairs

These projects remain deferred and will be revisited later.

Mirada Surf Enhancements

Seal Cove Stairs

Resolutions regarding these projects have been signed and the funds are now with the State Lands Commission. The San Mateo County Board of Supervisors has approved the contracts, and the projects may now move forward. Jennifer Lucchesi will check regarding an informational sign about the Command spill and restoration at Mirada Surf, as well as provide pdf copies of the contracts.

3. Ano Nuevo Island. Some restoration funds are needed to pay for emergency restoration work on Ano Nuevo that protected the on-going re-vegetation work from sea lions. The Apex Houston TC has expressed interest in funding it, but for legal reasons it may be easier for Command TC to fund it. This project was described in our Restoration Plan as less-preferred. Steve will let the TC know if funds are needed.
4. Annual Newsletter. Jennifer Boyce provided another draft. Please review by Oct 27 and then we will post it.
5. Cost Packages. Steve and the attorneys have reviewed the status of all past cost packages and created a chart showing their review status. There is still some follow-up to do. For the present, all TC members should submit their 2005-06 cost packages to the appointed reviewer. The TC discussed a simplified cost package review process, employing the TC members rather than the attorneys. We will revisit this at our next meeting.
6. Finances. The TC currently has \$2.076 million remaining and is earning over 4.5% in the short-term account.
7. Resolution 05-2. A final version of this resolution was signed by all TC members at this meeting.
8. Next Meeting. The next meeting will be in May, possibly at Butano State Park or Memorial County Park. We would like to include a site visit of Memorial as well as of Mirada Surf and Seal Cove. Joanne will look into arrangements.
9. To do's:
 - a. Prepare resolution (06-3) for disbursements to on-going projects. Hampton
 - b. Distribute Girl Scout Creek closing documents to TC. McKinley
 - c. Review COMU monitoring report; comments to Gerry by Nov 2. All
 - d. Review New Zealand shearwater report; comments to Dan by Nov 3. All
 - e. Get MAMU and corvid monitoring reports from Suddjian Kerbavaz
 - f. Inquire regarding a Command oil spill educational sign at Mirada Surf Lucchesi
 - g. Review newsletter; comments to Jen Boyce by Oct 27. All
 - h. Review minutes from June 21, 2006 meeting; comments to Steve by Oct 27. All
 - i. Each representative send their cost package to the appointed reviewer: USFWS and CSLC to Kathy Verrue-Slater (DFG); NOAA and State Parks to Chuck McKinley (USFWS); and DFG to Chris Plaisted (NOAA).
 - j. Complete status update on review of cost reports. Hampton
 - k. Arrange time and place of next meeting. Kerbavaz